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Title: "VOLUMETRIC OPERATING SYSTEM FOR VEHICLE LIFTS"

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TEXT OF THE DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to vehicle lifts, in particular of the scissors type. In the following description, scissors-type lifts mean in general scissors-
10 and double-scissors-type lifts, in which, when the scissors are closed, the lift is lowered to ground level, and when the scissors are open, the lift is raised, and inverted- and double-inverted-scissors-type lifts, in which the scissors open beneath ground level, in order to lower the
15 lift, and are closed at ground level in order to raise the lift, optionally with the assistance of pistons or rack-type mechanisms.

Scissors-type lifts have been developed in which, in
20 order to move the lift, a pair of cylinders is provided for each of the lifting scissors of the runways. The known operating system for the cylinders is of the serial type, i.e. in a first runway there are disposed the main cylinders, the outlet of which supplies the secondary
25 cylinders which are associated with the other runway. This arrangement requires temporally staggered raising of the two runways, and thus gives rise to a loss of parallelism of the vehicle relative to the ground. In addition, the force on the pair of cylinders is asymmetrical, with all
30 the resulting problems.

The object of the present invention is thus to provide a volumetric operating system for vehicle lifts, in particular of the scissors type, which permits synchronised
35 movement of the runways.

This problem is solved remarkably well by means of a volumetric operating system according to claim 1, for vehicle lifts. Further advantageous characteristics of the said system are indicated in the dependent claims.

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The characteristics, objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description and from the attached drawings relative to a non-limiting embodiment. In the various

10 figures:

Figure 1 is a schematic view of the volumetric operating system for lifts according to the prior art; and

Figure 2 is a schematic view of the volumetric operating system for lifts according to the present

15 invention.

With reference firstly to figure 1, a volumetric operating system 100 for scissors-type vehicle lifts has firstly two runways 112, 114. With each runway there is
20 associated at least one pair of scissors (not shown), which is controlled by a respective pair of cylinders 116, 118 and 120, 122. Pressurised fluid, for example oil, air or liquid, is supplied via a valve 124 and two pipes 128 and 130 to the two cylinders 116 and 118 which are associated
25 with the first runway 112. It will be appreciated that upstream from the valve 124, there are present the corresponding command and control components, which are not described in detail, since they are not relevant for the purposes of the present invention. Two pipes 132, 134
30 supply respectively to the two cylinders 120, 122 which are associated with the second runway 114, the fluid output from the rod chamber of the cylinders 116, 118. In other words, the system 100 is of the serial type, in which, with the first runway 112 there are associated the main
35 cylinders 116, 118, and with the second runway 114 there are associated the secondary cylinders 120, 122. However, since in a volumetric system the main cylinders tend to

fill before the secondary cylinders, in the case of the device in figure 1, the runway 112 tends to rise before the runway 114. Consequently, the vehicle is not raised perfectly parallel to the ground, and the force on the
5 pairs of cylinders is asymmetrical, with all the resulting problems.

Figure 2 illustrates a volumetric operating system 10 according to the invention, for scissors-type vehicle
10 lifts, in which the components of the system 10 which correspond to those of the system 100 in figure 1 have corresponding reference numbers, but reduced by 100. Thus, with each runway 12, 14, there is associated at least one pair of scissors (not shown), which is controlled by a
15 respective pair of cylinders 16, 18 and 20, 22. However, according to the present invention, the pressurised fluid is supplied via a valve 24 and two pipes 28, 30, to the cylinder 16 which is associated with the first runway 12, and to the cylinder 22 which is associated with the second
20 runway 14. The outlet of the rod chamber of the cylinders 16, 22 is connected by means of two pipes 32, 34 respectively, to the cylinder 20 which is associated with the second runway 14, and to the cylinder 18 which is associated with the first runway 12. The system 10 is thus
25 of the cross-type, in which the main cylinders 16, 22 and the secondary cylinders 18, 20 are associated, one with each runway 12, 14. Consequently, according to the invention, the two runways 12, 14 are raised simultaneously with the filling of the main cylinders 16, 22, and the
30 temporal staggering of operation of the secondary cylinders 18, 20 does not have significant consequences on the movement of the runways 12, 14. The vehicle is thus raised in a manner which is perfectly parallel to the ground, and the force on the pairs of cylinders which are associated
35 with the two runways is perfectly symmetrical.

Finally, it should be noted that, although the arrangement illustrated in figure 2 is optimal from the point of view of synchronisation and automatic control of the movement of the runways, satisfactory results can also
5 be obtained by providing a pair consisting of a main cylinder and a secondary cylinder associated for each runway. Finally, it will be apparent to persons skilled in the art that the design characteristics of the cylinders are irrelevant, provided that the main cylinders have an
10 outlet for the fluid which can be used to supply the secondary cylinders. In addition, it will be appreciated that the basic principle of the invention can be extended to any number of pairs of cylinders, and it must thus be considered that numerous modifications, adaptations,
15 integrations, variants and substitutions can be made to the embodiment previously described by way of illustrative, non-limiting example, without departing from the context of the invention, as determined by the following attached claims.

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